

The Home Page

First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska 68901-5175
Vol. 22.24, Weeks Of: November 25 and December 02, 2018

NOTABLE NOTES FROM...

PASTOR GREG

The refrain of the season of Advent is, "Come, Lord Jesus!" During this season we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christ's birth 2000 years ago, but just as importantly we also stand looking forward to Christ's Second Advent, when we will see our savior face to face.

A full-hearted celebration of Christ's birth, along with a steadfast belief of Christ's return in glory is a powerful call to a life of trust and obedience. This hope can encourage us with confidence that God's redemptive purpose will not be thwarted, even when we find ourselves experiencing or observing suffering in this world. This is our hope even in the midst of grief like the loss of a loved one or other trials we face. Anticipation of Christ's return enables us to endure the challenges of this life, while empowering us to work each day to make our world more like the Kingdom of God through acts of mercy, love, justice and compassion.

Advent Season at First Presbyterian Church promises to help us focus on all of this. Together we will pray, shout and sing, "Come, Lord Jesus!" We invite you to come participate in the life of the church throughout this holy season:

- ❖ December 1, 9am: Hanging of the Greens! Come share fellowship and help decorate our beautiful church building for the Advent Season!
- ❖ December 2: First Sunday of Advent. Communion worship services at 8:30 and 10:30am.
- ❖ December 9: Second Sunday of Advent. One worship service at 10:30 for the Choral Cantata.
- ❖ December 17: Third Sunday of Advent. Worship services at 8:30 and 10:30am.
- ❖ December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Service of "Lessons and Carols" at 8:30 and 10:30am.
- ❖ December 24: Christmas Eve Services: 2pm at College View Retirement Home with Choir, 5pm Family Service, 7pm Traditional Service, 11pm Evensong Service in the Chapel



The Choral Cantata on December 9 is a new work called *Small Dancing Light*. It is an original text that focuses on the themes of anticipation and revelation, built around the historical advent themes of hope, joy, love and peace. The author creates images of these themes in each of the texts, pointing toward the small dancing light in the manger. I have never heard a Cantata quite like this one, and it includes congregational hymn singing of Christmas Carols as part of the music, so come planning to sing

and be moved on your advent journey. Each Sunday of Advent, the choir will share one song from the Cantata as well, so we will have the chance to really immerse ourselves in the music.

We will also be distributing an Advent Devotional guide to all of our members, written by the composer of the cantata. So as a church, we will walk through the season of Advent studying, praying and worshiping together.

My prayer for our church family during this season of Advent is that we prepare to joyfully celebrate Christ's birth while experiencing the hope we proclaim as we look forward to Christ's return one day. May we all be able to boldly proclaim, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

FPC Prayers for:

Judy Brown
Celia & Wayne Ganow
Mary Kay LaMaster
Ramona Shetler
Brett & Dana Miller

Family of Jack Osborne
Elmer Heeren
Richard & Wanda Langer
John Harrington
Georgette Smidt (Ted
Schroeder's sister)

Georgie Evans
Steve Thelen (Pamela
Lay's brother-in law)

Linda Vollweiler
Brooks Borrell (infant son of Kim
& Jeremy Borrell, grandson of Bev &
Ken Stein)

Sharon Harvey

Katharine Davis
Zelma Fobben
Kathy (& Steve) Illingworth
Arlene Kort
Carolyn Nowka

Beth Utle
Jeff & Ashley Hermann

Please let us know if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the prayer list by calling the church office at 402-462-5147.

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Call Deacon Moderator Dawna Whitcomb at [402-469-4805](tel:402-469-4805) or the church office at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147).

The radio broadcast airs during Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on KICS 1550 AM.

Sunday's service will be broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings and on Channel 181 Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

For those living at Good Samaritan Village, Sunday's service will be broadcast on Channel 3 on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

"When working with your attorney to **update your will and estate plan**, please consider including a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Foundation.

--Dave Dirks, Moderator of the Foundation

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact the church office at [402-462-5147](tel:402-462-5147).

HOSPITAL REMINDER

Due to hospital privacy regulations, if you would like the church to know that either you or a family member will be hospitalized or have been admitted, please take a moment and call the church office at 402-462-5147. Remember... we don't always know what's happening unless you tell us!

2019 Offering Envelopes are in. You may pick yours up from the glass shelf in front of the church office or on the welcome stand in the

Memorial Room. Please call the office if you'd like yours mailed.

Mission Committee Update

- ✓ One bag of food equaling 19 items was given to the Hastings Food Pantry on November 7th
- ✓ The committee delivered 973 diapers and wipes on November 15th

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church:

The Board of Directors, the volunteers and homeowners of the Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$760.26. Your gift goes a long way in helping to fund the building of homes that provide safe, affordable housing to families in need. Thank you for your commitment to the Habitat philosophy of eliminating poverty and homelessness from the world by making safe and decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.



Did you miss the photo sessions for the new pictorial directory? NO PROBLEM!

You can still be included in the new directory! Just email your snapshot to

kili@fpchastings.org. Horizontal orientation preferred. Please, no copyrighted photos. Digital pictures are preferred, but we can scan a hard copy, if digital is not an option.

December Communion Offering goes to Maryland Living Center

Our Communion Offering for December will help our neighbors at Maryland Living Center, just across 7th Street. The Maryland Center is a transitional home for homeless youth, ages 16-21. The program provides guidance for functioning in community life, taking advantage of educational opportunities, preparing for employment and a career, and enhancing individual independent living. As a part of the transition, Maryland helps with apartment start-up items such as: towels, cleaning supplies, laundry baskets, small trash cans, shower curtains, and gently-used furniture. If you have any of these items, please bring them to a corner of the Memorial Room during December.

Spirituality Lab

This group learns and practices together a different form of prayer or meditation at each gathering. Join us to find the information and support you need for a more interesting and fruitful prayer life.

❖ November 29: Centering Prayer

7:00 a.m., The Upper Room Classroom (upper level Memorial Room) Questions? Contact Kili.

Upcoming Forum Classes

❖ December 2: Religious Experience Inside and Outside the U.S.

The practice and experience of any given religion can vary widely from place to place. In this Forum, immigrants to the U.S. will compare their religious experiences before and after coming to the U.S.

Presenters: Irina Belikova-Erickson (Russia), Bertha De Dios Salvador (Mexico)

Soup Group Lunchtime Conversations for Women

All women of the church are welcome to join in casual lunchtime conversations on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The Fall 2018 "Soup Group" sessions feature viewing of a TED talk followed by conversation on topics related to self-care.

❖ December 6: Movement and Meetings

Free childcare provided with reservation by the Tuesday preceding each gathering. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Noon-1, Church library.

Updating the Flower and Radio Memorial Lists for 2019

There are still opportunities for 2019 to support the radio and flower ministries. (See dates below.) You can fill in either or both with a memorial. Please call the church office and let Jean know which Sunday you would like for flowers, what kind and color (if you have a preference) how you want the memorial listed and/or which Sunday you would like for radio. Also let the office know if you want the memorial to be perpetual or just for the year. Remember you can do both. There is no cost, however contributions to the fund are always appreciated. Any questions can be directed to Mary Olsen.

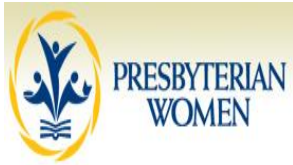
Flowers 2019	Radio 2019		
January 12	January 6	July 7	October 13
January 20	February 10	July 14	October 20
March 31	March 24	August 4	December 8
September 29	March 31	August 11	December 15
	May 12	September 1	December 22
	May 19	September 5	December 29

Boy Scout Troop 200 Annual Leaf Raking Fund Raiser

Help us raise funds to help two families for Christmas through healthy beginnings.org. We will gladly rake your leaves and haul them away. We can also do simple hedge trimming as well.

Available in Hastings and surrounding area: Dec 1-2

Donations are accepted to help with our cause. Contact Tom Kleinjan @ 402-705-0553 with questions or to schedule an appointment. We can also be reached at Scouting200hastings@gmail.com



DECEMBER 5, 2018 LUNCHEON

PROGRAM: Adams Central High School Madrigals

Directed by Linda Johnson

Prepare Lunch, Kitchen Helpers - Circle 1

Set Tables, Centerpieces, Devotions, Nametags, Cashier, Huger Cups - Circle 2

Presbyterian Women's (PW) luncheons are at 11:45am on the first Wednesday of each month. A program and short business meeting follow the luncheon. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to come for all or part of the meeting. Call your reservation to your circle telephone chairperson or to the church office by the Monday preceding the PW meeting.

PW Circle meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month. Circles 1 & 2 meet at 9:30am in the Hostess' home; Circle 3 meets at 1:15pm in the church library.

Note: November Circle date changes due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

- ✓ *Circle II will meet on November 28th (Hostess-Shirley Gass, Lesson-Alice Throckmorton)*
- ✓ *Circle III will meet on November 28th (Hostess-Mary Northrup, Lesson-Jo Seiler)*

Presbyterian Women received the following note from Nancy Langford:

"I always knew the women of First Presbyterian Church were special and that in leaving Hastings, it would be the people I would miss. On my counter is a basket filled with the most amazing cards and notes from you all!"

Nancy is undergoing treatment for some severe health concerns. As the above says, cards and letters of prayer and encouragement are appreciated. They can be sent to Nancy at 605 Tuttle Road, Durham, NC 27703.

Presbyterian Women Luncheon in Minden

You are invited to attend a Holiday Thanksgiving Luncheon hosted by Westminster United Presbyterian Women of Minden on Wednesday, November 28th, at 12:00 p.m. at the church on 109 N. Colorado Ave, Minden. Call 308-832-2170 with reservations.

Darlene "Tommy" Thompson recently retired as a Hospice Volunteer after 25 Years

Our family would like to share with the congregation the years of volunteer service Tommy has offered to the hospice program in Hastings; from 1993 to 2018. During that time, Tommy would visit patients so the caregiver could have a time to rest or go shopping for an hour or two. If the patient didn't feel like visiting, Tommy would read to them or maybe just sit with them and hold their hand. Tommy could also be found clipping articles and sending sympathy cards to families at their time of loss and then again a year later in memory of their lost loved ones.

Hospice was started at St. Joseph's in London in 1905, in New Haven, Connecticut in 1974, in Hastings, Nebraska through Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in 1982, becoming Medicare Certified in 1996. In Tommy's own words: "Hospice is a very special program, and the nurses are truly angels". I'm sure they think the same of her. Congratulations on your retirement!

Friendly Reminder...

- ❖ Be sure to fill out your 2019 Pledge Card and return it to the office.
 - ❖ Included in this newsletter is the new version of the SHARING TIME AND TALENTS Form. Even if you filled one out last year, please take the time to fill it out again and return it to the church office. The form has changed and has new opportunities!
-

SHARING TIME AND TALENTS

Household Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Each household member should initial where interested in serving.

Serve on Committee

____ Christian Education: Youth / Adult
____ Memorial ____ Deacons
____ Mission ____ Personnel
____ Worship/Arts/Music ____ Trustees
____ Scholarship ____ Session
____ Nominating ____ Go & Serve
____ Tech. & Comm. ____ Foundation
____ Congregational Life

Sunday School- Children August- May

____ Teacher 9:15-10:15am
 ____ PreK-Kindergarten
 ____ 1st-2nd Grade
 ____ 3rd-4th Grade
 ____ 5th Grade
 ____ 6th-7th Grade
 ____ 8th Grade (confirmation)
 ____ 9th-12th Grade
____ Teacher Assistant
____ Confirmation Mentor

Sunday School- Adult

____ Forum Leader
 Topic _____
____ Forum Video Recording Technician
____ Heirs Apparent Leader Substitute

Worship

____ Usher ____ Reg./ ____ Substitute
____ Greeter ____ Reg./ ____ Substitute
____ Serve Communion
____ Read Scriptures
____ Give Reflections

Music

____ Chancel Choir
____ Bell Choir
____ Celebrate Band Singer
____ Celebrate Band Instrumentalist
 Instrument _____

Wednesday Night Live August- May

____ PreK-Kindergarten Teacher 5:00-6:00pm
____ Elementary Teacher 4:30-5:00pm
 ____ 1st- 2nd Grade
 ____ 3rd- 4th Grade
 ____ 5th Grade
____ Jr./Sr. High Teacher 7:30-8:15pm
 ____ 6th-8th Grade
 ____ 9th-12th Grade
____ Teacher Assistant
____ Table Parent (6:00- 6:45pm)
____ Recreation Leader (3:55-4:30pm)
____ Table Setter and Decorator
____ Greeter (3:45-4:55-6:45pm)
____ Meal Preparer/Server/Clean-Up
____ Laundry

Nursery, Volunteer Care Special Events

____ Daytime ____ Evening ____ Either

Vacation Bible School

____ Teacher ____ Helper ____ Set- up

Technology

____ Run Camera during Worship
____ Run Soundboard during Worship
____ Run T.V./Screens during Worship

Funeral & Special Service Luncheons☐ Set-up☐ Bring a dish☐ Serve☐ Clean up**Other**☐ Volunteer in Nursery (10:30 service)☐ Home Page Assembly (Tuesday Mornings)☐ Mass Mailing Prep (As Needed)☐ Office Assist☐ Copying Project(s)☐ Proofreading☐ Organize Name tags☐ Cleaning☐ Church Mice (Pick up and re-stock Sanctuary pews)☐ Care for Planted Flowers in & around church during summer☐ Receive, Arrange and Care for Poinsettias☐ Photograph Church Events☐ Provide Vehicle for Moving Large Items☐ Deliver Food/Diapers to Local Missions☐ Organize Fun Events (Sports, Potluck, Fieldtrips)☐ Library Assistant☐ Sew/Quilt/Knit/Crochet☐ Prayer Chain☐ Help to update and maintain Church Directory (calling member to verify contact info, etc.)☐ Help to update and maintain Church Pictorial Directory (upload photos, data, etc.)☐ Christmas Program (kids)☐ Set-up ☐ Costumes ☐ Direct Drama ☐ Direct Music ☐ Accompany☐ Share Art Talents☐ Participate/Lead☐ Small Group ☐ Bible Study**Comments:**

"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world."

-Presbyterian Book of Order

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

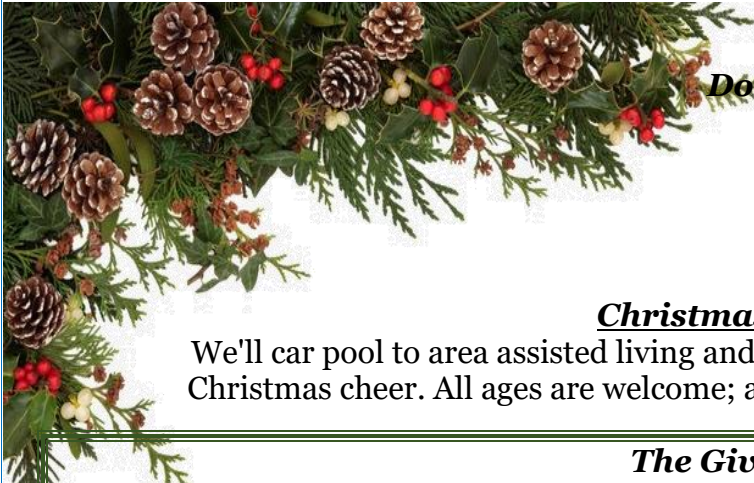
DECEMBER

Tom & Molly Johnsen	12/01/2001
Charles & Margaret Hermes	12/18/1965
Chris & Inde Wissing	12/21/2002
Willis & Jane Horton	12/21/1973
Robert Nedderman & Sue Medsker-Nedderman	12/21/1975
Rick & Heather Gosda	12/23/2006

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER

12/01	Peter Duang Louie Eckhardt Diane Phelps Michelle Wells	12/12	Traci Boeve John Brooks Gail Schmidt	12/21	Matt Nieman Justin Osborne Barbara Sunderman
12/03	Eva Ehrich Jeanne Hastings Justin Musgrave Abigail Shetler Sandra Wimer	12/13	Nyaguor Duang Mark Scheidegger	12/22	Jax Gernstein
12/04	Conner Kidd Diane Mullen	12/14	Mary Fisk Darrel Lloyd	12/23	Briella Borrell John Harrington
12/05	Tyson Kerr	12/15	Deegan Dettwiller Pat Kleiber	12/24	Mari Anderson
12/06	Connie Franzen Damon Nievas Dave Rethorst	12/16	Karson Stroyek	12/25	Tracy Brooks Emily Funkey
12/07	Tanner Bauer Ricki Frasier Lynette Krieger	12/17	Esther Allen-Pickett Marilyn Nielsen Lindsey Stout	12/26	Lisa Marvel Laura Marvel-Wunderlich Sophia Pankratz
12/08	Pam Schlichtman Steve Wolford	12/18	Wayne Ganow Deb Jensen Shannon Welton	12/27	Margaret Koontz Halligan Little
12/09	Dave Dirks Sophia Hemje	12/19	Sue Bradley Donald Buhr Tom Ratzlaff Zane Thomsen	12/28	Jim Cooke Thomas Cooke Jim Wenburg
12/10	Todd Pankratz	12/20	Eleanor Jorgenson Bill Redinger	12/29	Landon Benorden Indiana Hoff Connie Kubicka Carolyn Nowka
12/11	Kevin Ellerbee Phyllis Salyards Chima Uche Danna Wolford			12/30	Maliya Fitzgerald Levi McCoy Al Meyer Laura Peterson Riley Propp



**The Christmas season is almost here!
Don't miss these special church family events!**

Hanging of the Greens:

Saturday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.

Many hands make light work! We need you!

Bring a snack to share.

Christmas Caroling: Sunday, December 16, 1:00 p.m.

We'll car pool to area assisted living and nursing homes, enjoying fellowship and spreading Christmas cheer. All ages are welcome; all voices appreciated! Meet in the Memorial Room.

The Giving Tree

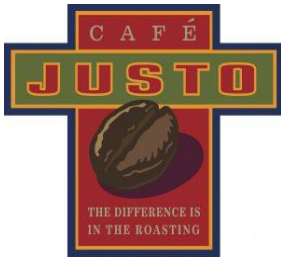
The tags will be hung on the **Giving Tree December 2!** The Giving Tree in the Memorial Room supports clients of Assertive Community Treatments, people with severe and persistent mental illness and living in our community. Most are without family support and live on disability or nothing.

Please help support these people by taking a tag from the tree and returning gifts to the tree by Sunday, *December 16*. The gifts should be wrapped and the tag placed back on them. Monetary donations may also be given to the church office, with checks payable to ACT.

Sponsored by the Mission Committee

Hands Around the World Store Christmas Fair Trade Sale

Saturday, December 8th, @ 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



All our Fair Trade products come from artisans who live in poor areas around the globe. Purchasing their goods helps them to feed their families, allows them to send their children to school, and helps improve their lives by becoming economically self-sufficient. Handcrafts for sale include: baskets, scarves, woolen hats and mittens, holiday decorations, gourmet chocolates, spices, teas, coffee, and much more. Purchasing products from the store also supports our local mission, United Harvest. We give \$100 from the store, each month, to this outreach, which helps to feed those in need in our community.



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias may be purchased in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15 each. Money raised over the cost will be donated to Salvation Army Utility Assistance Program, which provides money to individuals and families, including children and elderly, towards utilities assistance for necessary electricity, water and gas.

As with all of The Salvation Army's programs, utilities assistance is an emergency service. To qualify, individuals and families must have received a disconnect notice and meet qualifications of need.

Your donation makes a difference. Please return your order form to the church office as soon as possible.

Poinsettia in memory of: _____

Poinsettia in honor of: _____

Given by: _____

I will take my poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve services: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I will leave my poinsettia at the church: ☐ Yes ☐ No

GO & SERVE

Bid Board donations needed



Each year, the senior high youth group of First Presbyterian Church has the opportunity to go on a Go & Serve Mission trip. The goal of this trip is to engage the students in service projects that work toward the betterment of our community, our state, our nation, and its people. In June of 2019, the group will travel to Hazard, Kentucky and will work on new home construction and/or home repair through the "Hammerin' in the Hills" program.

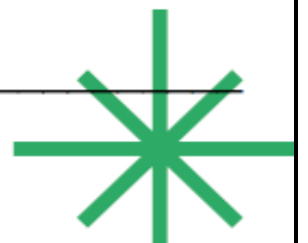
To help offset the costs of taking trips to various destinations across the country, we hold an annual silent auction (Bid Board). This year our silent auction will be held December 2-16. We are always looking for items to put up for auction and are hoping you can help with a NEW or GENTLY USED donation. A few popular items from the past include: themed gift baskets, gift certificates, child care, yard services, fine art.

Please deliver your donations to the designated cart in the church's common office area **before Sunday, December 2**. Also, please fill out the following form and attach it to your donation.

Item/Service being donated: (please, new or gently used)

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____



First Presbyterian Church

Holiday Drop & Shop

Drop off your children
while you do your holiday shopping.

Drop off
children at
Main
Entrance
(south doors)

Bring
your
friends!

Ages 3-11

(Must be potty trained)

Saturday, Dec. 1

Full day: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Half day: 9 a.m. to noon
or Noon to 3 p.m.

Lunch provided for all.

Full Day: \$50

Half day: \$30

10% off for additional children
from same family

Activity stations:

- **Make a Gift: Additional charge**
- **Movie & popcorn**
- **Make an ornament/advent calendar**
- **Reindeer Games in gym**
- **Karaoke/Dance Party**
- **Yoga**
- **Nails by Nina**
- **Snowy Science Lab**
- **Slime Make & Take**
- **Photo Booth**
- **Lego Creation**
- **Scavenger Hunt**
- **Plus, more!**

Child's name _____ Age _____

Parents' name(s) _____

Allergies _____

Contact phone numbers _____

Reserve space by e-mailing the total number of kids to holidaydropandshop2018@gmail.com
by November 28.

Homemade Cinnamon Rolls



Go & Serve Fundraiser

This year we are offering something new. You can pick up a pan of 6 baked fresh rolls OR you can request to have your rolls frozen and you can bake when you would like!

**If you request yours to be frozen, you will get a package of 6 rolls along with a bag of frosting.

**All orders will be ready for pick up in the Church kitchen Sunday December 16th.

**If you can not make that date let us know and we can make other arrangements.

6 Cinnamon Rolls \$12 (one pan). Total number of pans _____
Baked _____ or Frozen _____

Name _____ Phone # _____



Home Page
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Phone: 402-462-5147, Fax 402-462-6818
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Address Service Requested

The Home Page

A publication of
First Presbyterian Church
621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE 68901

Senior Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett

Publishing Guidelines: The *Home Page* is a bi-weekly publication for the people and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

The newsletter seeks to inform, instruct and challenge its readers to become engaged in the ministry of FPC.

Articles will be accepted by the Friday prior to publication. Submissions may be edited for length and suitability. You may send articles to the church office: fpc@fpchastings.org or call 402-462-5147.

Rejoice always; pray continually;
Give thanks in all circumstances,
For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18